



State of New Jersey
Department of Law and Public Safety
Division of Consumer Affairs
Audiology and Speech-Language
Pathology Advisory Committee
P.O. Box 45002, Newark, N.J. 07101

AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH-LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Volume 1

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2002

Message from the Chairperson

On behalf of the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee, I am pleased to present the first publication of the committee's newsletter, which will be issued annually. In 1977, the law requiring the licensing of audiologists and speech-language pathologists in New Jersey was enacted. This statute designates the authority to regulate and license audiologists and speech-language pathologists to the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs in the Department of Law and Public Safety. The committee is a peer body created to advise and make recommendations to the Director. Since 1977, the committee has served to protect the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of New Jersey by recommending to the Director regulations that set forth the qualifications and standards for the professions of audiology and speech-language pathology.

We hope that this newsletter will serve to introduce you, the licensee, to the members of the committee and to reintroduce you to the statutes and regulations that govern your profession. We want this newsletter to be informative and to share both the important issues that are addressed by the committee and the decisions that affect you and the people you serve.

Please read this newsletter thoroughly as it contains valuable information concerning your profession. We encourage you to note the open meeting dates listed on page 4. We invite you to contact the committee with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the professions or the consumers you serve.

Celeste A. Wood, M.A.

Inside

Doctor of Audiology Credentials	2
Disciplinary Actions	2
Change of Address Notification	2
Higher Education Loan Defaults	2
Recent Rule Changes and Amendments	3
Unlicensed Practice	3

AUDIOLOGY AND SPEECH- LANGUAGE PATHOLOGY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

James E. McGreevey

Governor

David Samson

Attorney General

Sharon M. Joyce

Acting Director

Committee Members

Celeste Andriot Wood, M.A.,

Chairperson

Theresa E. Bartolotta, M.A./C.C.C.-S.L.P.

Louis Joseph Conte, D.O.

Anne M. Eckert, M.B.A., Au.D.

Sandra Marcus Friedland, C.C.C.-S.L.P.,

Secretary Treasurer

Sheila Kotler, M.S., C.C.C. S.L.P.

Freda Renz Spagnola, *Public Member*

Deborah F. Rosin, M.D.

Pamela S. McClure,

Executive Director

Marianne Greenwald,

Deputy Attorney General

Linda Jones, *Secretary*

This newsletter is published by the Committee for its licensees. Inquiries should be addressed to:

Audiology and Speech-Language

Pathology Advisory Committee

Division of Consumer Affairs

P.O. Box 45002

Newark, NJ 07101

Location:

124 Halsey Street

Newark, N.J. 07102

Telephone (973) 504-6390

Fax (973) 648-3355

Doctor of Audiology Credentials

The Committee has determined that the use of the Au.D. credential and the title "doctor" is appropriate for licensees who have been awarded the degree by an accredited higher education institution. The Committee advises all audiologists that they may use the Au.D. title only if they have earned a doctoral degree at an accredited institution of higher learning. Audiologists who are awarded this degree should use the title in a manner consistent with professional practices and advertise their credentials in a manner that is clear to consumers.

Disciplinary Actions

Since the Committee has been in existence, the Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Advisory Committee has taken disciplinary actions against licensees for a variety of reasons. The misrepresentation of credentials, the use of controlled dangerous substances and inappropriate billing procedures are but a few of the actions taken. In the future, any actions taken by the Committee will be reported directly in the newsletter.

Change of Address Notification Reminder

Please remember to inform the committee office of any change in your business or home address. A licensee has 60 days to notify the committee of any change in his or her address of record. Failure to do so may impede the delivery of your license renewal form.

Please note that your address of record is considered public information. It must include a street address, city, state and ZIP code. You must designate whether your home or business address is to be used as the address of record. It will then be posted as part of the Online Licensee Directories at <http://www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/director.htm>.

Higher Education Loan Defaults

Under a new law enacted in 1999, the Director of the Division of Consumer Affairs, or the Board/Committee, may suspend the license of any person who has been certified by a lender or guarantor for nonpayment or default of a State, federal direct or guaranteed educational loan. The license may not be reissued until the person provides the Director or the Board/Committee with a written release by the lender or guarantor that the person has cured the default or is making payments on the loan in accordance with a repayment agreement approved by the lender or guarantor. If the person has continued to meet all other requirements for licensure during the suspension, reinstatement is automatic upon receipt of the notice, subject to the payment of a current registration fee plus a reinstatement fee.

Recent Rule Changes and Amendments Governing the Practice of Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology

The regulations governing the practice of audiology and speech language pathology were readopted on June 29, 1998. The committee recently evaluated the regulations to make changes upon readoption. These changes will enhance the effectiveness of the regulations and help to ensure their continued positive impact on the health and welfare of consumers. The amendments and new regulations will also hold licensees to higher standards of practice. We encourage you to carefully read the regulations to become aware of the changes and additions. A few of the more noteworthy changes are discussed below.

Reinstatement of Lapsed Licenses

The committee has clarified the requirements of lapsed licenses. At times, the committee is asked to reinstate licenses that have lapsed due to a professional moving out of state, taking a sabbatical, or previously working in an exempt setting. As a result of the new rules, the following will now be required: work history from another state(s) or exempt settings, or verification that the professional has not worked during a lapsed license period. More stringent continuing education requirements have also been specified to ensure that clinicians remain familiar with current developments in the profession and have maintained continuing education units even

though they were not actively practicing for a given period. For further information please refer to N.J.S.A. 45:1-7.1, 7.2 & 7.3.

Scope of Practice

The committee receives many inquiries requesting specification of what procedures are within an audiologist's or speech-language pathologist's scope of practice. The committee has proposed clear parameters defining the scope of practice for licensees (see N.J.A.C. 13:44-7.1, 7.2). However, at this time cerumen management and FEES (fiber optic endoscopic evaluation of swallowing) have not been approved to be contained within the scope of practice for licensees. In recognition of the expanding roles of professionals and their diverse training and experience, the committee has recommended that licensees engage in only those aspects of their professions that are within the scope of their competence.

Applications for Temporary Licenses

In the past, the committee has received several applications for temporary licenses from applicants who had already started their work in the clinical internship also known as the Clinical Fellowship Year (CFY). The language in the regulations has been

changed to clarify that a temporary license must be obtained *prior to* commencing the CFY. Clinical internship supervisors are responsible for ensuring that their interns fulfill all requirements for licensure and abide by the statutes and regulations governing their profession.

Maintaining CEU Records

To verify compliance with continuing education requirements, the committee has clarified the rules requiring licensees to maintain proof of CEUs (continuing education units). Random audits of CEU credits will be conducted at various times and the licensee must provide appropriate documentation that he or she has attended the mandatory continuing education programs as specified in N.J.A.C. 13:44-6.2.

All licensees are responsible for being aware of and abiding by the regulations that govern their profession. The committee thanks those licensees who have brought to our attention areas within the regulations that were ambiguous or incomplete. The committee has worked to make the current regulations clear and concise so that they ensure adequate training and professional conduct. If you have any questions regarding the interpretation of the regulations we encourage you to contact the committee for clarification.

Unlicensed Practice

Only those individuals who hold a valid license may engage in the practice of audiology or speech-language pathology. Any person who is not licensed by the committee and engages in activities that are within the scope of audiology and speech-language pathology may be sanctioned for unlicensed practice.

The Audiology and Speech-Language Pathology Web page is located at www.state.nj.us/lps/ca/medical.htm#audio1. This page provides an online licensee directory and change of address form, committee meeting dates, a complaint form, and rule proposals and adoptions.

Upcoming Meeting Dates

The scheduled meeting dates for 2002 are as follows:

May 9, 2002

July 11, 2002

September 12, 2002

November 14, 2002

Meetings are held at 124 Halsey Street, Newark, New Jersey, in the Sussex Room.

E-mail us at AskConsumerAffairs@dca.lps.state.nj.us or
visit our Web site at www.nj.gov/lps/ca

*Remember...take advantage of us, so no one
takes advantage of you.*